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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/803,149	03/12/2001	Mitsuhiko Yoshimura	500.39846X00	3259

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EXAMINER

LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

8

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action SummaryApplication No.
09/803,149Applicant(s)
Yoshimura et alExaminer
Etienne P LeRouxArt Unit
2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 3, 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1, 6-9 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by USPAT 6,453,353 issued to Win et al (hereafter Pat '353).

Regarding claim 1, Pat '353 discloses:

means for storing dispersed data [col 2, lines 44-45],

means for storing a dispersed data access privilege, said dispersed data access privilege being an access privilege to the dispersed data [col 2, lines 54-56],

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making connection with dispersed data identification information for identifying a user, or user processing apparatus permitted to access the dispersed data [col 2, lines 57-62],

a dispersed data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or the user processing apparatus indicated by said dispersed data identification information are permitted to operate the dispersed data [col 2, lines 57-62],

said multi-database processing apparatus includes: means for receiving a plurality of the dispersed data from said plurality of database apparatuses, means for integrating said plurality of received dispersed data to generate integrated data [col 5, lines 1-11],

means for storing an integrated data access privilege, said integrated data access privilege being an access privilege to the integrated data [Registry Repository 110, Fig 1]

means for receiving an access request, said access request being an access request for operating the integrated data from said user processing apparatus, and containing user identification information for identifying a user of the user processing apparatus concerned or the user processing apparatus concerned [col 5, lines 21-32].

Regarding claim 1, examiner maintains that in the referenced patent '353 that *making connection with integrated data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the integrated data and an integrated operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or user processing apparatus indicated by said integrated data identification information are permitted to operate the integrated data, and furthermore, means for controlling operation indicated by said access request and respectively*

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applied to said plurality of dispersed data constituting the integrated data by using said dispersed data access privilege and said integrated data access privilege is inherent. Examiner notes, the MPEP § 2112.01 states “[w]here the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, a *prima facie* case of either anticipation or obviousness has been established. *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977). ‘When the PTO shows a sound basis for believing that the products of the applicant and the prior art are the same, the applicant has the burden of showing that they are not.’ *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990).”

Regarding claims 6-8 and 14-17, Pat ‘353 discloses limiting the operation indicated by the access request [col 4, lines 38-40].

Regarding claim 9, Pat ‘353 discloses:

means for receiving dispersed data [col 2, lines 44-45]

means for receiving access-privilege to the dispersed data [col 2, lines 54-56]

means for integrating dispersed data [col 5, lines 1-11]

means for storing an integrated data access privilege [Registry Repository 110, Fig 1]

means for receiving an access request [col 5, lines 21-32]

means for controlling operation indicated by the access request [col 5, lines 21-32]

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-5 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPAT 6,453,353 issued to Win et al, (hereafter Pat '353) in view of USPAT 6,519,587 issued to Blinn et al (hereafter Pat '587).

Regarding claims 2, 4, 10 and 12, Pat '353 discloses the essential elements of the claimed invention per supra paragraph 2 except for SELECT. Pat '587 discloses SELECT [col 3, line 38]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Pat '587 to include SELECT as taught by Pat '587 for the purpose of performing a search [col 3, line 31].

Regarding claims 3, 5, 11 and 13, Pat '353 discloses updating [col 11, lines 21-32].

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Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 7/3/2003, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant states on page 7, lines 1-3, "Initially, Applicants point out that Applicant's dispersed-data storing means is DBMS (database managing systems), while Win et al (col 2, lines 44-45) discloses a Web server." Examiner is not persuaded. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the feature upon which applicant relies (i.e., dispersed-data means is DBMS) is not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

However, for sake of completeness, Applicant's dispersed-data storing means is considered below.

Win '353 discloses in column 2, lines 56-67 the following:

One feature of this aspect involves storing, in a database, information describing a role of the user, a person type of the user, and a functional group to which the user belongs within the enterprise; and storing an association of the user to the role, person type, and functional group at the **Web application server**. Another feature involves storing, in a database, information describing one or more roles and functional groups of the enterprise to which the user belongs in association with information describing the user; and determining whether **the user may access the resource** based on the information describing the roles and functional groups.

Furthermore, the abstract of Win '353 discloses:

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A single secure sign-on gives a **user access to authorized Web resources**, based on the user's role in the organization that controls the **Web resources**. **The information resources are stored on a protected Web server. A user of a client or browser logs in to the system.** A runtime module on the protected server receives the login request and intercepts all other request by the client to use a resource. The runtime module connects to an access server that can determine whether a particular user is authentic and which resources the user is authorized to access.

Furthermore, applicant is referred to following definition of a web application server taken from page 32 of Microsoft Computer Dictionary, Fifth Edition:

A server program on a computer in a **distributed network** that handles the business logic between users and backend business applications or databases. Application servers also can provide transaction management, failover, and load balancing. An application server is often viewed as part of a three-tier application consisting of a front-end GUI server such as an HTTP server (first tier), an application server (middle tie) and a backend database and transaction server (third tier).

Examiner maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would agree that above teaching by Win '353 and by the Microsoft Computer Dictionary reads on the claim 1 limitation "means for storing dispersed data."

Applicant states on page 7, lines 3-8, "Moreover, Applicant's dispersed-data access privilege storing means stores an access privilege per se for an access privilege of a stored data. The Examiner asserts that this limitation is disclosed in Win et al at col 2, lines 54-56. However, this merely discloses a means to communicate with clients. Win et al's web page contains links to only those that the user is authorized to access, based on the user's role within an enterprise that controls the resources." Examiner is not persuaded.

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In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., dispersed-data access privilege storing means stores an access privilege per se) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

However, for sake of completeness, Applicant's access privilege storing means is considered below.

Win '353 discloses in col 2, lines 40-56, the following:

The foregoing needs, and other needs and objectives that will become apparent from the description herein, are achieved by the present invention, which comprises, in one aspect, a method of controlling access to one or more Web resources stored on a Web server, comprising the steps of receiving information describing a user at the Web server; identifying, **at a Web application server coupled to the Web server, a subset of the resources that the user is authorized to access**, based on stored information describing one or more roles and one or more access rights of the user that are stored in association with user identifying information; communicating information defining the subset to the first server; and communicating, to a client that is associated with the user, a Web page containing links to only those resources that the user is authorized to access, based on the user's role within an enterprise that controls the resources.

Examiner maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would agree that above teaching by Win '353 reads on the claim 1 limitation "means for storing dispersed data comprising access privilege."

Applicant states on page 7, lines 9-17, "The Examiner further asserts that Win et al discloses Applicant's claimed dispersed-data operating right at col. 2, lines 57-62. However, this

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is user's attribute information in an organization such as an enterprise. This is not dispersed-data access privilege being an access privilege to the dispersed data, and correlating dispersed-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the dispersed data and a dispersed-data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or the user processing apparatus indicated by said dispersed-data identification information are permitted to operate on the dispersed data as recited I the claims of the present invention." Examiner is not persuaded. Win '353 discloses in col 2, lines 57-67, the following:

One feature of this aspect involves storing, in a database, information describing a role of the user, a person type of the user, and a functional group to which the user belongs within the enterprise; and storing an association of the user to the role, person type, and functional group at the Web application server. Another feature involves storing, in a database, information describing one or more roles and functional groups of the enterprise to which the user belongs in association with information describing the user; and determining whether the user may access the resource based on the information describing the roles and functional groups.

Examiner maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would agree that above teaching by Win '353 reads on the claim 1 limitation "means for storing a dispersed-data access privilege, said dispersed-data access privilege being an access privilege to the dispersed data, and correlating dispersed-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the dispersed data and a dispersed-data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or the user processing apparatus indicated by said dispersed-data identification information are permitted to operate the dispersed data."

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Applicant states on page 7, line 18 through page 8, line 2, "The Examiner asserts that Win et al discloses claimed multi-database processing apparatus at col 5, lines 1-11 and 21-32 and Registry Repository 11 (Fig 1)). However, these portions of Win et al merely disclose a browser or client being coupled by a communication link to a network, and access rules by defining roles of users in an organization. This is not means for receiving a plurality of dispersed data from a plurality of database apparatuses based on a request for integrating data from said user processing apparatus, as recited in the claims of the present application. Win et al's invention is not configured to receive a request from another apparatus and integrate data requested." Examiner is not persuaded. Win '353 discloses in col 5, lines 1-11 and col 5, lines 21-32 the following:

A browser 100 is coupled by a communication link to a network 102. The block shown for browser 100 represents a terminal, workstation computer, or an equivalent that executes a standard Web browser program or an equivalent, such as Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, or NCSA Mosaic. Network 102 is a compatible information communication network, preferably the Internet. **In alternate embodiments, the browser 100 is a client process or client workstation of any convenient type, and the network 102 is a data communication network that can transfer information between the client and a server that is also coupled to the network.**

The system 2 enables administrators to implement access rules by defining Roles that Users play when working for an organization or doing business with an enterprise. A Role may reflect a relationship of a User to the organization (employee, customer, distributor, supplier), their department within an organization (sales, marketing, engineering) or any other affiliation or function (member of quality task force, hotline staff member) **that defines their information needs and thus their access rights or privileges.** Thus, examples of Roles include Employee, Customer, Distributor, Supplier, Sales, Marketing, Engineering, and Hotline Staff.

Furthermore, applicant is referred to following definition of a web browser taken from page 562 of Microsoft Computer Dictionary, Fifth Edition.

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Software that lets a user view HTML documents and access files and software related to those documents. Originally developed to allow users to view or browse documents on the World Wide Web, Web browsers can blur the distinction between local and remote resources for the user by also providing access to documents on a network, an intranet, or the local hard drive. Web browser software is built on the concept of hyperlinks, which allow users to point and click with a mouse in order to jump from document to document in whatever order they desire. Most Web browsers are also capable of downloading and transferring files, providing access to newsgroups, displaying graphics embedded in the document, playing audio and video files associated with the document, and executing small programs, such as Java applets or ActiveX controls included by programmers in the documents. Helper applications or plug-ins are required by some Web browsers to accomplish one or more of these tasks.

Furthermore, applicant is referred to following definition of a web application server taken from page 32 of Microsoft Computer Dictionary, Fifth Edition:

A server program on a computer in a distributed network that handles the business logic between users and backend business applications or databases. Application servers also can provide transaction management, failover, and load balancing. An application server is often viewed as part of a three-tier application consisting of a front-end GUI server such as an HTTP server (first tier), an application server (middle tier) and a backend database and transaction server (third tier).

Examiner maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would agree that above teaching by Win '353 reads on the claim 1 limitation "means for receiving a plurality of the dispersed data from said plurality of database apparatuses based on a request for integrating data from said user processing apparatus."

Applicant states on page 8. Lines 3-7, "Further, Win et al's registry repository stored an access privilege to dispersed data which previously exists (110 in Fig 1). This is not means for integrating a plurality of received dispersed data to generate integrated data dynamically and means for storing an integrated-data access privilege, as recited in the claims of the present

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application.” Examiner is not persuaded. Win ‘353 discloses in col 5, lines 1-11 and col 5, lines 21-32 the following:

A browser 100 is coupled by a communication link to a network 102. The block shown for browser 100 represents a terminal, workstation computer, or an equivalent that executes a standard Web browser program or an equivalent, such as Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, or NCSA Mosaic. Network 102 is a compatible information communication network, preferably the Internet. **In alternate embodiments, the browser 100 is a client process or client workstation of any convenient type, and the network 102 is a data communication network that can transfer information between the client and a server that is also coupled to the network.**

The system 2 enables administrators to implement access rules by defining Roles that Users play when working for an organization or doing business with an enterprise. A Role may reflect a relationship of a User to the organization (employee, customer, distributor, supplier), their department within an organization (sales, marketing, engineering) or any other affiliation or function (member of quality task force, hotline staff member) **that defines their information needs and thus their access rights or privileges.** Thus, examples of Roles include Employee, Customer, Distributor, Supplier, Sales, Marketing, Engineering, and Hotline Staff.

Furthermore, applicant is referred to following definition of a web browser taken from page 562 of Microsoft Computer Dictionary, Fifth Edition.

Software that lets a user view HTML documents and access files and software related to those documents. Originally developed to allow users to view or browse documents on the World Wide Web, Web browsers can blur the distinction between local and remote resources for the user by also providing access to documents on a network, an intranet, or the local hard drive. Web browser software is built on the concept of hyperlinks, which allow users to point and click with a mouse in order to jump from document to document in whatever order they desire. Most Web browsers are also capable of downloading and transferring files, providing access to newsgroups, displaying graphics embedded in the document, playing audio and video files associated with the document, and executing small programs, such as Java applets or ActiveX controls included by programmers in the documents. Helper applications or plug-ins are required by some Web browsers to accomplish one or more of these tasks.

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Furthermore, applicant is referred to following definition of a web application server taken from page 32 of Microsoft Computer Dictionary, Fifth Edition:

A server program on a computer in a distributed network that handles the business logic between users and backend business applications or databases. Application servers also can provide transaction management, failover, and load balancing. An application server is often viewed as part of a three-tier application consisting of a front-end GUI server such as an HTTP server (first tier), an application server (middle tier) and a backend database and transaction server (third tier).

Examiner maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would agree that above teaching by Win '353 reads on the claim 1 limitation "means for integrating said plurality of received dispersed data to generate integrated data dynamically."

Applicant states on page 8, lines 8-14, "Moreover, Win et al discloses at col 5, lines 22-32 that the system 2 enables administrators to implement access rules by defining roles that users play. This is not means for receiving an access request from a user apparatus, the access request being an access request for operating integrated data, and containing user identification information for identifying a user of the user processing apparatus concerned or the user processing apparatus concerned, as cited in the claims of the present application." Examiner is not persuaded. Win discloses in col 2, lines 40-56, the following:

One feature of this aspect involves storing, in a database, information describing a role of the user, a person type of the user, and a functional group to which the user belongs within the enterprise; and storing an association of the user to the role, person type, and functional group at the Web application server. Another feature involves storing, in a database, information describing one or more roles and functional groups of the enterprise to which the user belongs in association with information describing the user; and determining whether the user may access the resource based on the information describing the roles and functional groups.

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Examiner maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would agree that above teaching by Win '353 reads on the claim 1 limitation "means for receiving an access request, said access request being an access request for operating the integrated data from said user processing apparatus, and containing user identification for identifying a user of the user processing apparatus concerned or the user processing apparatus concerned."

Applicant states on page 8, lines 15-20, "In addition, Win et al does not disclose or suggest a plurality of database apparatuses that include means for storing a dispersed-data access privilege or a multi-database processing apparatus including means for storing an integrated-data access privilege, where the dispersed-data access privilege and the integrated-data access privilege are handled independently from each other, as recited in the claims of the present invention."

Examiner is not persuaded.

Win '353 discloses in col 2, lines 40-56, the following:

The foregoing needs, and other needs and objectives that will become apparent from the description herein, are achieved by the present invention, which comprises, in one aspect, a method of controlling access to one or more Web resources stored on a Web server, comprising the steps of receiving information describing a user at the Web server; identifying, **at a Web application server coupled to the Web server, a subset of the resources that the user is authorized to access**, based on stored information describing one or more roles and one or more access rights of the user that are stored in association with user identifying information; communicating information defining the subset to the first server; and communicating, to a client that is associated with the user, a Web page containing links to only those resources that the user is authorized to access, based on the user's role within an enterprise that controls the resources.

Win '353 discloses in col 5, lines 1-11 and col 5, lines 21-32 the following:

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A browser 100 is coupled by a communication link to a network 102. The block shown for browser 100 represents a terminal, workstation computer, or an equivalent that executes a standard Web browser program or an equivalent, such as Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, or NCSA Mosaic. Network 102 is a compatible information communication network, preferably the Internet. **In alternate embodiments, the browser 100 is a client process or client workstation of any convenient type, and the network 102 is a data communication network that can transfer information between the client and a server that is also coupled to the network.**

The system 2 enables administrators to implement access rules by defining Roles that Users play when working for an organization or doing business with an enterprise. A Role may reflect a relationship of a User to the organization (employee, customer, distributor, supplier), their department within an organization (sales, marketing, engineering) or any other affiliation or function (member of quality task force, hotline staff member) **that defines their information needs and thus their access rights or privileges.** Thus, examples of Roles include Employee, Customer, Distributor, Supplier, Sales, Marketing, Engineering, and Hotline Staff.

Furthermore, applicant is referred to following definition of a web browser taken from page 562 of Microsoft Computer Dictionary, Fifth Edition.

Software that lets a user view HTML documents and access files and software related to those documents. Originally developed to allow users to view or browse documents on the World Wide Web, Web browsers can blur the distinction between local and remote resources for the user by also providing access to documents on a network, an intranet, or the local hard drive. Web browser software is built on the concept of hyperlinks, which allow users to point and click with a mouse in order to jump from document to document in whatever order they desire. Most Web browsers are also capable of downloading and transferring files, providing access to newsgroups, displaying graphics embedded in the document, playing audio and video files associated with the document, and executing small programs, such as Java applets or ActiveX controls included by programmers in the documents. Helper applications or plug-ins are required by some Web browsers to accomplish one or more of these tasks.

Furthermore, applicant is referred to following definition of a web application server taken from page 32 of Microsoft Computer Dictionary, Fifth Edition:

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A server program on a computer in a distributed network that handles the business logic between users and backend business applications or databases. Application servers also can provide transaction management, failover, and load balancing. An application server is often viewed as part of a three-tier application consisting of a front-end GUI server such as an HTTP server (first tier), an application server (middle tier) and a backend database and transaction server (third tier).

Examiner maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would agree that above teaching by Win '353 and the Microsoft Computer Dictionary reads on the claim 1 limitation "each of said plurality of database apparatuses includes means for storing dispersed data and means for storing a dispersed-data access privilege, said dispersed-data access privilege being an access privilege to the dispersed data, and correlating dispersed-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the dispersed data and a dispersed-data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or the user processing apparatus indicated by said dispersed-data identification information are permitted to operate the dispersed data."

Applicant states on page 8 line 21 through page 9, line 7, "Applicants further assert, as has been shown, that none of the limitations in the claims of the present invention, that the Examiner admits are not disclosed in the cited Win et al reference are inherent in Win et al. Win et al discloses to generate integrated data that can be disclosed to users in accordance with an access privilege to dispersed data. However, there is no access privilege to integrated data per se. That is, Win's access privilege is not present for integrated data. Further, if Win's invention is applied to the above-mentioned environment, Win's invention could not perform management of access

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privilege in an organization managing integrated data independently because Win's system does not provide an access privilege unique to integrated data as recited in the claims of the present invention." Examiner is not persuaded. Examiner responds by referring applicant to supra arguments which are referenced to the relevant claim limitations of instant invention. However, in this particular instance, examiner is unable to respond as applicant is not arguing with respect a claim limitation(s) of the present invention.

Applicant states on page 9, lines 14-16, "However, Applicants control means does not cooperate with other components during access control, but refers to an access privilege to integrated data for judging." Examiner is not persuaded. Examiner responds by referring applicant to supra arguments which are referenced to the relevant claim limitations of instant invention. However, in this particular instance, examiner is unable to respond as applicant is not arguing with respect a claim limitation(s) of the present invention.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

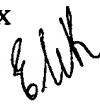
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne (Steve) LeRoux whose telephone number is (703) 305-0620.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached at (703) 308-1436.

Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application or processing procedure should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Etienne LeRoux

July 22, 2003



FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER